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NO. 11

DIARY OF JUDGE LYSANDER HORD.

What and whom he saw, and what he did at Washington, in getting the first appropriation for the Kentucky river.

Monday evening 2:40 p. m., January 20, 1879, left Frankfort, arrived at Newport 8 P. M. at Columbus 12:34. Delayed 2 hours by failure of Indianapolis train to make time. Arrived at Pittsburg 10 a. m. Friday, January 21; at Harrisburg at 8 p. m. Regular train for Washington left before we arrived; took special train at 8:30, arrived at Washington 12:15 on morning of Wednesday, January 22d. Went to Metropolitan Hotel, staid balance of night and took breakfast. Price lodging and breakfast \$2.

Wednesday, January 22, 1879, went to Washington House and engaged a room for a week at \$9. Went to Willards and found Tom Turner. Went with him to ladies gallery of House of Representatives. Went to Senate Chamber; sent in my card to Tom McCreary. Was taken by him on floor of Senate. Saw Senator Beck a few minutes. McCreary pointed out to me Blaine, Edmunds, Dawes, Thurman, Morrison, Burnside, Davis, of Illinois, Gordon, and others. Saw Henford, of West Virginia, introduce bills to improve Big Sandy, Kanawha, New, Guyandotte and Monongahela rivers of West Virginia. He made no mention by our Senator of any bill to improve Kentucky river. Henford's bills referred to Committee on Commerce.

At night went to Willards and was introduced by Turner to his wife and to the wives of Messrs. Sargent and Overton, members of the House from Pennsylvania. Had with them a game of whist. Quit about even. Turner is a capital whist player.

Thursday, January 23. After breakfast went to Ebbitt House to see Col. Merrill, seeing he had arrived from Cincinnati. He had gone out; left my card. Went to Willards and with Turner to War Department to find Merrill and to see why survey of Kentucky river had not been sent on to Congress. Was introduced by Turner to Mr. Crary, Secretary of War, who said Kentucky river was an important channel of commerce and ought to be improved. Second survey of Kentucky river would be sent to House of Representative to-day. Went up to Capital. Saw Joe Blackburn a few minutes in hall; asked me to come to see him; was glad to see me. Before seeing him went to Trabue about Kentucky river improvement. Got at restaurant one dozen oysters in shell for 25 cents; more than I could eat.

After supper went again to Ebbitt House to see Merrill, not finding him went to Willards to see Turner. While there we had a very full and pleasant interview with Merrill, who came there to see us. Found him a very intelligent, sociable and friendly man and very well disposed to do all he could to further our project of getting river improved. Returned to my room and read Rambles in Wonderland, by E. J. Stanley, until 11 o'clock.

Friday, January 24. Had interview with Jo. Blackburn on river matter this morning. He talks friendly, but says the present committee will give us nothing. In this I think he is mistaken. The difficulty is our members oppose all appropriations to other States and ask, and therefore get, nothing for Kentucky. Wrote to W. J. Chinn, S. F. J. Trabue, Judge Kinkead, L. J. McElrath and my wife on river matter. Prepared an invitation to our members to meet in consultation on appropriation. Telegraphed Shaler to come, that committee would hear him. Was introduced by Blackburn to Reagan, Chairman of committee, who said he would give river a hearing.

Saturday, January 25.

Wrote to Watterson, Courier-

Journal, to get his paper to speak out on the subject. Also to A. S. Berry to get Newport and Covington people to write to Carlisle; also to F. L. Cleveland to write and get others to write to Clark. Had interview with Beck as to conferences of Kentucky members. Said he did not think it would do any good. Such matter of appropriation belonged to House, still if House members desired his presence and invited him he would attend. Saw Turner; showed him my letter of invitation which he approved. We fixed time of conference Monday 12:30 p. m. Had seen Blackburn before and he agreed to conference.

Sunday, January 26, 1879.

Went to National Hotel to see Reagan, Chairman of Committee on Commerce. He was not in. Went to Judge Harlan's, saw him, his wife and family; spent say 2 hours with them; a pleasant visit. Returned to National, found Reagan in his room. Senator Maxey, of Texas, with him. Told Reagan my business; had considerable talk; no trouble as to Reagan. Maxey said Kentucky had an old foggy delegation in Congress opposed to every appropriation; that we must send different men or we could never get any thing for Kentucky. Wrote long letters to Craddock and Judge Pryor to get letters to Beck, Carlisle, etc., to help me. Read Rambles in Wonderland; went to bed.

Monday, January 27, 1879.

Went at 11 o'clock and had invitations to conference put on tables of each of our members. At 12:30 o'clock went to Blackburn's committee room found none of them there. After a little time Turner came in, said the members had just seen their invitations and could not be present on so short a notice. At his suggestion commenced writing an authority to him, Willis and Boone, from Kentucky members, to present claims of Kentucky before Commerce Committee. While engaged in writing it Turner came back and said Beck proposed members should meet in same room at 11:30 tomorrow morning, to which I agreed and Turner was to notify other members.

Went into gallery of Senate; found Hill, of Georgia, speaking against claim of Warren Mitchell, of Kentucky, taking the ground that Congress should not pay for losses occasioned by the late civil war. They could not pay rebels for their losses and should not pay losses of those claiming to be loyal in the south, and advising the Democrats to disarm the Republicans by taking a stand against paying such claims. Beck replied, advocating the payment as a legal obligation upon the government, as Mitchell had, by permission of the officer in command of the Federal army, gone into the South and purchased the cotton which was seized by Sherman on his capture of Savannah and which was sold by the Federal authorities and the money placed in treasury of U. S. Morgan, of Alabama, opposed payment of claim also. I think Hill's position correct and as a matter of policy best for the Democratic party. Saw Blaine, Conkling, Edmunds, Burnside, Hoar, Dawes and other leading Republicans. Blaine is a full faced and full bodied man with a pugnacious expression of face. Conkling a man of fine figure and size with a blonde face and hair. Edmunds a face and expression of great thought and study, very old looking and bald for his age, as he is said to be less than 60. Burnside is more remarkable for the prime cut of his whiskers than anything else I saw about him.

Of Democrats I saw Thurman, Bayard, Lamar, Hill, Meriman, Voorhies, etc. Thurman appears to be a man of power, self-possession and caution. Bayard a man of calmness, integrity and decision of character. Hill a man of great independence of thought and action. Lamar ditto. To-night wrote Orlando Brown how I was progressing and to get Drane, Chinn, Macklin

and Saffells to write to Durham's constituents to get his support of appropriation.

Tuesday, January 28.

Went to Blackburn's room. He was not up; left note requesting him to remember meeting at 11:30 o'clock to-day at his committee room. Went to Willards and with Turner to Treasury and War Departments, on some of Turner's business; got on a buss and went to Capital. At 11:30 went to Blackburn's committee room to meet Kentucky members; found Committee on District of Columbia in session and room full. Doorkeeper informed me that Blackburn said we must go down to committee room of Naval Appropriation in basement. Went down; after a short time Durham came; the first time I had met him. Talked with him. He said he was willing to act with us, but complained of character of river and harbor bills heretofore passed saying he had voted against them, although he got \$37,000 in one of them for upper Cumberland. Beck came in said he could not wait, that House members should attend to the business, and whatever might be in the bill for Kentucky when it came to Senate he would keep in; but if the bill was such a bill as that of last session he would vote against whole bill. Durham said same thing. Turner also came, but seeing no other of Kentucky members was about leaving when Blackburn came saying he was compelled to be with his committee and consequently could not be there. He and I discussed when and where we could get a meeting. He suggested his room and we were to see other members to arrange it. Went into House; heard Townsend, of New York, denouncing the bill to restrict Chinese immigration and the Democrats generally. Page, of California (Republican), and Luttrell (Democrat), of California, advocated bill, also Willis, of Louisville, who, as Chairman, introduced it. Went into Supreme Court room. Saw our Judge Harlan with the other Supreme Judges in session. They are in appearance solid, studious men. Did not like the countenance or expression of Joe Bradley. Don't think he could be trusted on a political or personal question in which his party or personal feelings were enlisted. Saw old Jerry Black, who is evidently a man of powerful ability for either good or evil as it may happen. Also saw Judge Campbell, who I think is in some respects a better but not so able a man. After night went to Willards, saw Turner. Had a game of euchre with Mrs. Turner, Miss Emily Sullivan and Mrs. Overton, wife of a Pennsylvania member. Mrs. Overton and myself played against the other ladies in parlor of Willards. Came out about even. Between 9 and 10 went to President Hays' levee. Walked there. Handed my hat and cane to negro servant who checked it. Went into room where stood President Hays and wife. Told young Hays my name and residence; was introduced. Hays shook me heartily by the hand saying "he was happy to know me," which he had said to everybody else who preceded me and no doubt said to all who succeeded me. Told another gentleman standing by side of Mrs. Hays my name and residence. She also shook hands with me. Said when a child she had been in Frankfort. I said she had friends there. The gentleman said Mrs. Hays was not exactly a Kentuckian, but the next thing to it, as only a river divided our State. She said, laughingly, "I am a Buckeye you know." Talking of handshaking I noticed all of the gentlemen had white kid gloves on. I had none, but gave them an uncovered hand. The time I was in the President's house did not exceed 15 minutes. There was, of course, an immense crowd. A band of Redcoated musicians were playing in one of the rooms near the entrance. Went back to parlor of Willards; had a little game of whist—Miss Sullivan and I against Tom Turner and a Mrs. Bain. Went back to my room. No. 47 Washington House, corner of 3d and Pennsylvania avenues and went to bed.

(To be continued.)

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